



## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

### CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICE

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June 30, 2006

To: Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Mayor  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chair Pro Tem  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Don Knabe

From: Jon W. Fullinwider  
Chief Information Officer

Subject: **SECOND STATUS REPORT ON BOARD MOTION 49-B, APRIL 11, 2006 – CHILD CARE WEBSITE OF LICENSED PROVIDERS**

This report reflects the current status and actions taken to provide for the enhanced delivery of child care information, including violations and corrective action, to the residents of Los Angeles County. The genesis of this action was based on a similar capability implemented by the State of New Hampshire where child care providers were identified along with relevant violations resulting from state-directed inspections.

The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) has made child care provider information available on their website for several years. However, this information does not contain relevant violations or corrective actions as this data is captured, maintained and controlled by the State of California Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD).

Since the last status report, several conversations have been held with the CCLD Deputy Director for the purpose of determining the viability of having them send an electronic file of violations and corrective actions that could be merged with existing provider information maintained by DPSS. Additionally, a formal letter from the Mayor of the Board of Supervisors was sent to the Director of the State Department of Social Services, with a copy to the Governor, requesting their support in making the requested information available. While there has been expressed interest in working with the County, the CCLD does not have the automated systems in place, the data in an acceptable format or in a consolidated form to make the information available. They have requested and are awaiting State budget approval for funds that will allow them to hire more inspectors and develop the necessary systems to capture, store and maintain the critical information necessary to track and monitor child care providers including violations and corrective actions noted during periodic inspections.

Through our numerous conversations we have been informed that upon budget approval, CCLD will begin working on developing automated systems that would fulfill our request for information and allow for the development of an electronic file of relevant violations and corrective actions. However, this action will not be in the near-term and is expected to take 18 months or longer before the systems can be developed and implemented within CCLD.

While the delay in receiving CCLD information will prevent the County from improving the content of child care provider information in the near-term, DPSS is taking proactive steps to fundamentally improve the way existing information is displayed and accessed. The existing DPSS website used to make child care provider information available is being redesigned to include geo-coding of child care provider locations (without providing a specific address) such that a resident can input an address and identify all registered child care providers within a specific area. Additionally, the redesigned website will be accessible from the County's main portal site making it easier for residents to identify this service option. These actions will go a long way in improving the delivery of child care information and once the CCLD information becomes available, we will take action to include it within the DPSS website.

We anticipate that the redesigned DPSS website will be available within the next 30 to 45 days. Other than keeping abreast of CCLD plans for system enhancements, no further actions will be taken to gain access to violation/corrective action data until such time as they are ready to make it available. The next status report will be developed to correspond with the implementation of the redesigned DPSS website.

If you have questions, please contact me at 213.974.2008 or via e-mail at [jfullinwider@cio.lacounty.gov](mailto:jfullinwider@cio.lacounty.gov).

JWF:ygd

Attachment

- c: Raymond G. Fortner, County Counsel
- Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
- David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
- Bryce Yokomizo, Director, DPSS
- Lisa Nunez, Chief Deputy, DPSS
- Michael J. Sylvester II, Assist. Dir., Bureau of Contract and Technical Svs., DPSS



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June 28, 2006

**TO:** Jon W. Fullinwider  
Chief Information Officer

**FROM:** Bryce Yokomizo, Director

**SUBJECT: CHILD CARE WEBSITE OF LICENSED PROVIDERS AND LICENSING VIOLATIONS (BOARD ORDER #49-B – APRIL 11, 2006)**

This is to provide you with an updated status report of the ongoing effort to enhance the Child Care Website with licensing violation and Corrective Action Plan (CAP) data associated with child care facilities licensed by the California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD).

On June 7, 2006, DPSS contacted Jo Frederick, Deputy Director of CCLD, to determine how we might expedite our request for violation data. Ms. Frederick stated the information was stored in separate systems and that they did not have staff available to extract the data we require. She also declined our offer to assist them with the data extraction because that would still require resources they do not have available.

On June 27, 2006, the State Legislature adopted the FY 06-07 State Budget, which includes funds for development and enhancement of the State's own Child Care website to contain the violation data. At this point, CCLD foresees that the violation data can be provided to Los Angeles County to put on our website once the State's website is developed to include the violation data. However, this funding approved by the legislature is still subject to the Governor's approval. If the funding is fully approved at the State level, the estimated completion date for those efforts is 2008 at the earliest.

On June 19, 2006, the Child Care Website Committee in Los Angeles County conducted a conference call with Ms. Gloria Merk, Program Administrator of CCLD. Ms. Merk described the antiquated state of the State's current computer systems supporting CCLD, and confirmed their plans to complete the State's website redesign sometime in 2008 (approximately). She also reiterated that they cannot provide us with the violation and CAP information we've requested until they complete the necessary enhancements to their computer infrastructure.

Furthermore, Ms. Merk indicated that the State does not display the addresses of the Large Family Child Care Homes, even though there is no legal prohibition against such a practice. In accordance with the State's practice, we plan to apply Geographic Information Systems (GIS) functionality only to the Child Care centers and not the large family homes listed on the Los Angeles County DPSS Child Care website.

We are continuing to improve the overall functionality of the Child Care website in Los Angeles County, while we await the violations and CAP information from the State. For instance, we recently completed the draft website redesign to include the GIS new capabilities that allow users to enter street addresses and obtain the nearest 20 Child Care Center locations to the street address submitted. The search results also include street addresses with links to the County's map, as well as driving directions. Using the latest available data from CCLD, DPSS has updated the existing child care provider data to be current as of April 2006. Subsequent monthly updates will be available around the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. We have also removed the CAO's Child Care emblem from the website, as requested by the CAO, and updated the Resource and Referral page with links to the websites of the agencies listed.

DPSS also continues to work with Mark Grenninger, from the CAO, to validate and add geocoding coordinates to the current child care provider data set. Also, in the spirit of collaboration and innovative research, DPSS has reviewed the Child Care Resource Center Website (<http://www.ccrcla.org>) and has contacted their Director to solicit ideas to improve Los Angeles County's website. Our target date to demo the new website design to the Child Care Website Committee is set for July 20, 2006. DPSS will provide the ISD with a new web address to replace the existing entry listed on the Los Angeles County Web Portal when the redesign is completed.

Our existing Child Care Website has the following features:

- A simple search capability to locate child care providers by city or zip code. Child Care Centers and Large Family Child Care Homes are automatically displayed, and Small Family Child Care Homes are displayed when we have written authorization from the provider.
- Information to help evaluate child care providers.
- Links to Resource and Referral agencies.
- Information regarding the After-School Enrichment Program.
- Instructions detailing how Small Family Child Care Homes can be added to the website search.



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The new Child Care Website will also include:

- Additional search functionality to locate child care providers nearest to a supplied address.
- Improved navigation.
- Additional links to local and state websites.
- Updated content and design.
- Enhanced GIS capabilities.

In closing, while the State is clearly not prepared to provide Los Angeles County with Child Care violation information in the near future, DPSS continues to work very closely with various organizations to improve the functionality and utility of Los Angeles County's Child Care website. Meanwhile, we will also continue our communications with the State on the status of their recent Child Care website funding request to determine a more specific target date for Los Angeles County to receive Child Care violation data.

BY:MS:ms